

p. 80 (part. ?\*) (1859); Pelz. Orn. Bras. p. 266 (note, part.), pp. 448, liii. (1871); Sclat. & Salv. Nomencl. Av. Neotr. p. 113, no. 18 (Brasilia) (1873); Sclat. P. Z. S. 1880, p. 68, pl. ix. fig. 2; id. List Vert. An. (8th ed.), p. 348 (1883).

*Chrysotis dufresnianus*, Souancé (*nec* Shaw), Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1856, p. 154; Bp. Naumannia, 1856, Consp. Psitt. no. 94 (part.); ? G. R. Gr. Hand-list, ii. p. 164, no. 8323 (part.) (1870).

*Chrysotis dufresneana*, Bolle (*nec* Shaw), Journ. f. Orn. 1856, p. 170; Sclat. Cat. Am. B. p. 354, no. 2113 (1862).

*Chrysotis dufresnei* (part.), Finsch, Die Papag. ii. p. 551 (1868); Gieb. Thes. Orn. i. p. 682 (part. ?) (1872).

*Androglossa dufresnii*, Rehnw. (*nec* Shaw), Journ. f. Orn. 1881, p. 374 (Consp. Psitt. p. 214) (syn. emend.); id. Vogelbild. Nachtr. 125 (1883).

*Diagn.* Viridis, pileo antico rubro, loris flavis, genis cyaneo tinctis; speculo alari rubro; caudæ apice flavicante et fascia rubra subapicali oblecta notata, crassitie paullo majore quam in *C. dufresneana* (Shaw).

*Hab.* in Brasilia.

### XXXVII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 261.]

#### 60. *Backhouse on European Birds.*

[A Handbook of European Birds, for the use of Field-Naturalists and Collectors. By James Backhouse, Jun., F.Z.S. 8vo. London: Gurney and Jackson, 1890.]

Mr. Backhouse has produced a useful book and one that will, no doubt, be often referred to by working ornithologists. It is a pity, however, that he did not look after the artist who drew the frontispiece more sharply. The "anal region" in the typical bird is certainly not properly placed between the legs; nor the "rump" halfway up the back. We must also object to the author's usage of the term

\* Gray mentions a specimen from Bogota, but I do not know to which form it belongs.

“Habitat,” which, since the time of Linnæus, has been used to express what Mr. Backhouse calls “Distribution,” and not the *kind* of country to which a bird mostly resorts. Again, if the Scutelliplantar Passeres are recognized as a separate group they should be placed at the end of the typical Oscines, and not in the middle of them. Mr. Backhouse does not exactly define the limits of “Europe” as regarded from his point of view, but appears to comprehend in it the Caucasus. He has very wisely not troubled his readers with synonyms, which in a volume of this character are well omitted. But his nomenclature and general arrangement are such as must commend themselves to his brother members of the B.O.U.

#### 61. *Barrows on the English Sparrow in North America.*

[U.S. Department of Agriculture. Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy. Bulletin 1. The English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) in North America, especially in its relations to Agriculture. Prepared under the direction of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Ornithologist, by Walter B. Barrows, Assistant Ornithologist. 8vo. Washington: 1889.]

This is a memoir of 606 pages on the great Sparrow-question, and may well be believed, as Dr. Merriam claims for it, to be the “most systematic, comprehensive, and important treatise ever published upon the economic relations of any bird.” The Sparrow was only first introduced into America in 1850; but it has so thriven as to have now spread all over the eastern States, as is shown by the map attached to the memoir, and in some favoured places to abound in enormous quantities. The result arrived at, after full discussion, is that the Sparrow is “a curse of such virulence that it ought to be systematically attacked and destroyed,” and it is shown how this may be effected by poisoning, trapping, and netting.

#### 62. *Berlepsch on Birds from Upper Amazonia.*

[Systematisches Verzeichniss der von Herrn Gustav Garlepp in Brasilien und Nord-Peru, im Gebiete des oberen Amazonas, gesammelten Vogelbälge. Von Hans von Berlepsch. J. f. O. 1889, p. 289.]

Graf v. Berlepsch continues his account of Herr Garlepp’s bird-collections in Upper Amazonia (*cf. supra*, p. 111), and

now writes of the specimens obtained at various localities on the Ucayali and Huallaga. After recording some interesting notes by Garlepp upon the Toucans and Parrots of these districts, the author proceeds to a systematic account of the species represented in the collection. These are altogether 142 in number, concerning which many excellent critical remarks are given. *Cassicus pachyrhynchus* is characterized as a new species allied to *C. hæmorrhous*. *Ornithion pusillum olivaceum* and *Momotus brasiliensis ignobilis* are two new subspecies. Coloured figures are given (plate iii.) of two rare Parrots, *Ara couloni* and *Conurus roseifrons*. Of the latter, ten specimens were obtained by Herr Garlepp near Tarapoto, and subsequently 31 more at Shanusi near Yurimaguas.

### 63. Fürbringer on *Stringops* and *Iynx*.

[Einige Bemerkungen über die Stellung von *Stringops* und den eventuellen Herd der Entstehung der Papageien, sowie über den systematischen Platz von *Iynx*. Von Max Fürbringer. J. f. O. 1889, p. 236.]

Herr Marshall, in his 'Zoologische Vorträge,' has maintained that *Stringops* should be considered rather as a modern degraded form than as the oldest and least developed member of the Psittacine group. Dr. Fürbringer now gives good reasons why the latter view, which he has adopted in his "Untersuchungen," should be upheld. He likewise writes on the question of the local origin of the Psittaci, which some have maintained must have been in the Oriental, and others in the Australian Region, and shows that we have not yet materials for properly discussing this difficult subject. As regards *Iynx*, which he has treated as the lowest and least-specialized type of the Picidæ, Dr. Fürbringer also explains his views on this point, and shows that they are not materially different from those of Herr Marshall; only the latter writer is inclined to regard *Iynx* as a more specialized development of the Picidæ, while Dr. Fürbringer thinks that it should rather be looked upon as a more primitive form of that group.

64. *Hume and Oates's 'Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds.'*

[The Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds. By Allan O. Hume, C.B. Second edition, edited by Eugene William Oates. Vol. I. With four portraits. Pp. 397. 8vo. London: 1889. R. H. Porter.]

As a companion work to his 'Birds of British India,' the first volume of which was noticed in our last number (above, p. 362), Mr. Oates has undertaken the preparation of a new edition of Mr. Hume's 'Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds,' of which the parallel volume, containing the accounts of the nests and eggs of the species described in the first volume of the former work, is now before us. Every one interested in Indian Ornithology is well acquainted with Mr. Hume's 'Nests and Eggs,' and although it would have been much better, in our opinion, to have incorporated all the information on this subject into the pages of the 'Birds of India,' and thus to have only one work to refer to instead of two, this course being impracticable on account of the exigencies of space, we must all feel greatly indebted to Mr. Hume for republishing his most useful work, and to Mr. Oates for editing it. For many years after the publication of his original work, Mr. Hume went on accumulating materials for a second edition of his 'Nests and Eggs.' These materials have now been placed unreservedly in Mr. Oates's hands and have been employed in the present work, which in arrangement and nomenclature follows exactly the system employed in the 'Birds of India.' The volume is appropriately illustrated by portraits of four leading Indian Ornithologists, Hodgson, Jerdon, Tickell, and Hume.

65. *Leverkühn on Variations in the Coloration of Birds.*

[Ueber Farbenvarietäten bei Vögeln. Von Paul Leverkühn.—III. J. f. O. 1889, p. 245.]

Herr Leverkühn continues his papers on variations in the plumage of birds (*cf. supra*, p. 116), and now gives us an account of those observed in the Museums of Metz, Strasburg, and Colmar. We regret to hear that the birds in the first of these Collections are not well cared for, comprising as they do many specimens referred to in Malherbe's great



Monograph of the Picidæ. The German ornithologists should see to this, as it would be a great reproach to them not to keep things in such good order as their French predecessors. The Strasburg Collection on the other hand is, we are glad to say, spoken of as being in excellent condition. Herr Leverkühn gives us some interesting remarks on the question of the two forms of *Turdus torquatus* (cf. Seebohm, Ibis, 1888, p. 309).

#### 66. Merriam's Report for 1888.

[Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1888. Report of the Ornithologist and Mammalogist, C. Hart Merriam, M.D., for the year 1888. 8vo. Washington: 1889.]

Dr. Merriam's Report to the Commission of Agriculture of the U.S.A. upon the operations of the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy for the year contains several items of interest. It appears that "four flourishing colonies of introduced Pheasants now exist in the Pacific coast-region." One of these colonies is in Vancouver Island, another on an island in Puget Sound, and the two remaining colonies in Oregon. The birds in Oregon do not belong to the ordinary *Phasianus colchicus*, or what we are accustomed to call by this name in England—which is really a cross-race between *P. colchicus* and *P. torquatus*,—but to three Eastern Asiatic species, the Gold Pheasant (*Thaumalea picta*), the Japanese, *Phasianus versicolor*, and the true Ring-necked *P. torquatus*. They were imported in 1882 and subsequent years, and seem to have thriven well. A new crime of the American Crow (*Corvus americanus*) has been brought to light—"the distribution of noxious seeds." A single pound of the dried excrement of some of these birds was ascertained to contain 1041 seeds of Poison Ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*) and 341 seeds of Poison Sumach (*Rhus venenata*). On testing these seeds it was found that their vitality was unimpaired; they germinated even more quickly than fresh seeds. Although of benefit to mankind in some ways, the final verdict is that "the harm which Crows do appears to far outweigh the good." The Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*), on

the other hand, is shown to be "a valuable friend to the farmer," and to deserve "the most careful protection and encouragement."

67. *Meyer's Illustrations of Birds' Skeletons.*

[Abbildungen von Vogel-Skeletten. Herausgegeben von Dr. A. B. Meyer. Lief. x., xi. (1886), xii., xiii. (1888-89). 4to. Dresden: 1886-89.]

Four numbers of Dr. A. B. Meyer's illustrations of Birds' skeletons have been issued since we last noticed this work (*Ibis*, 1886, p. 371). The 13th number concludes the first volume, which contains altogether 130 plates. A systematic Index is now provided, which is a very convenient addition.

68. *Modigliani on the Birds of Nias.*

[Un Viaggio a Nias di Elio Modigliani.—Illustrato da 195 incisioni, 26 tavole tirate a parte, e 4 carte geografiche. Royal 8vo. Milano: 1890.]

"Tano Niha" or Nias is an island on the southern coast of Sumatra, to explore which Sign. Modigliani made a special expedition in 1886. The present volume gives us a general account of his adventures and of the results arrived at. Count Salvadori published a memoir on the birds obtained by Sign. Modigliani in 1887 (*Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen.* ser. 2, vol. iv. p. 16) and described the new species. The following birds are now figured:—*Syrnium niasense*, *Miglyptes infuscatus*, *Calornis albirostris*, *Gracula robusta*, *Cittocincla melanura*, *Terpsiphone insularis*, *Macropygia modiglianii*, and *Carpophaga consobrina*.

69. *More's List of Irish Birds.*

[A List of Irish Birds, showing the species contained in the Science and Art Museum, Dublin. By Alexander G. More, F.L.S., &c. Second edition. 8vo. Dublin: 1890.]

This is a second and revised edition of Mr. More's 'List of Irish Birds,' of which the first edition was published in 1885 (see *Ibis*, 1885, p. 44). The List is intended in the first place as a catalogue of the specimens of Irish Birds exhibited in the Dublin Museum of Science and Art. But

the names of such Irish species as are not represented in the Museum are added in a different type, so that the result is a complete list of Irish birds. Short notes on the distribution of each species are added.

70. *Nehrling's North-American Birds.*

[North-American Birds. By H. Nehrling, M.A.O.U. To be completed in Twelve Parts, with thirty-six coloured Plates, by Professor Robert Ridgway, of the United States National Museum and Smithsonian Institution, Professor A. Goering, Leipzig, and Gustav Muetzel, Berlin. Parts 1, 2. 4to. London: 1890.]

These are the first two numbers of what promises to be an important work to American Ornithologists, although, if it is intended to embrace all North-American Birds, we do not quite see how it is to be completed in "twelve parts." There is at present no popularly written book on the birds of the U.S. brought up to modern date in existence, and Mr. Nehrling's work would seem, certainly as regards its text, to be likely to supply this *desideratum*. But notwithstanding the undoubted talents of the artists combined to draw the illustrations, we cannot say that the plates are quite satisfactory. The very fully coloured backgrounds mar the effect, and in spite of the enormous advances made of late years in colour-printing, it has not yet, in our opinion, arrived at perfect success as regards birds, although it has some undoubted advantages.

71. *Ridgway on Birds from St. Lucia, the Abrolhos Islands, and the Straits of Magellan.*

[Scientific Results of Explorations by the U.S. Fish-Commission Steamer 'Albatross.'—II. Birds collected on the Island of Santa Lucia, West Indies, Abrolhos Islands, Brazil, and at the Straits of Magellan, in 1887-88. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xii. p. 129.]

Mr. Ridgway writes of the birds obtained by the Naturalists of the U.S. Fish-Commission's Steamer 'Albatross' at these three localities. At the first two places little was obtained but what is already well known. At various ports in the Straits of Magellan examples of 66 species of birds were procured. Amongst these is a *Geositta*, from Elizabeth

Island, referred with doubt to *G. antarctica*, for which the alternative new name *G. longipennis* is proposed, and a *Upucerthia*, allied to *U. dumetoria*, described as *U. propinqua*, from Gregory Bay. The small Cormorant usually called *Phalacrocorax brasiliensis* (Gm.) is termed *P. vigua* (Vieill.), as Gmelin's name is considered not to refer to this species.

### 72. *Salvadori on Additions to Papuan Ornithology.*

[Aggiunte alla Ornitologia della Papuasie e delle Molucche. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Parte seconda. *Passeres*. 4to. Torino: 1890.]

We have now before us the second part of Count Salvadori's account of the additions to the Papuan Ornis since the completion of his great work on this subject. The first part (noticed above, p. 258) referred to the Accipitres, Psittaci, and Picariæ. The present part relates to the Passeres, of which 89 additional species are now recognized as belonging to the Papuan Subregion. Of these 89 species, 84 are recent discoveries, 1 was omitted by inadvertence, 1 is an old species recently met with in the Timor-Laut group, and 3 (*Edolisoma nehrkorni*, from Waigiu, *Dicruropsis guillemardi*, from Pisa, one of the Obi group, and *Pachycephala meyeri*, from the Arfak mountains, New Guinea) are now described for the first time. Numerous additional references and many notes are also given upon the species enumerated in the former work, so as to bring the whole information on the subject up to date.

### 73. *Sclater on the Tracheophone Passeres.*

[Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds, in the Collection of the British Museum.—Tracheophonæ, or the Families Dendrocolaptidæ, Formicariidæ, Conopophagidæ, and Pteroptochidæ. By Philip Lutley Sclater. London: 1890.]

The fifteenth volume of the Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum is devoted to the Tracheophonine Passeres—a group distinguished from the normal Passeres by the peculiar modification of their trachea, as first discovered by Johann Müller. The Tracheophonine structure prevails, so far as is yet known, only in four families of Passeres, all of



which are absolutely restricted to the Neotropical Region. These are the Dendrocolaptidæ, Formicariidæ, Conopophagidæ, and Pteroptochidæ. In the present volume are catalogued about 4482 specimens of *Tracheophonæ*, as belonging to the Collection of the British Museum. These have been referred to 92 genera and 531 species, leaving only 28 species known to the author, but not yet represented in the Collection. The "types" in this portion of the series are especially numerous and amount to no less than 172.

With the present volume is concluded the account of the great Passerine series, which was commenced in June 1877, by the issue of Mr. Sharpe's catalogue of the Colæomorphæ (vol. iii.), and has taken up thirteen volumes.

#### 74. Seebohm on the Classification of Birds.

[Classification of Birds: an attempt to diagnose the Subclasses, Orders, Suborders, and some of the Families of existing Birds. By Henry Seebohm. London: 1890. R. H. Porter. 54 pp.]

For several years past Mr. Seebohm, as is well known to all readers of 'The Ibis,' has devoted much time and attention to the study of the principal characters upon which the classification of Birds has been based by recent systematists. As the results of his investigations, Mr. Seebohm has contributed to this Journal several papers upon the diagnostic characters of the orders of Birds and upon their component families (*cf.* Ibis, 1888, p. 415; 1889, p. 92; 1890, pp. 29, 200). Having now finished his general survey, he has put his observations together, and shows in the present work how birds may be separated by absolute differential characters into 36 "suborders." He also gives two alternative schemes for the combination of these "suborders" into "orders" and "subclasses." Putting aside these proposed combinations, to both of which, we think, serious objections may be made, we should say that Mr. Seebohm is, as we believe, the first systematist who has succeeded in dividing Birds into a tolerably natural series of families separable by absolutely diagnostic characters. These characters are now presented to us in the case of each suborder in an original and highly

ingenious way. The characters having been shortly stated, a tabular list of the 36 "suborders" is appended, and it is shown in which of them each of the several selected characters occurs and in which of them it is absent. Thus it is seen at a glance that the "suborder" under consideration is the only one of the set of thirty-six that combines the whole of the selected characters, though many other "suborders" may possess one or more of them.

The principal characters taken by Mr. Seebohm as the base of his System are:—(1) The condition of the young at birth (to which very special importance was attached by Sundevall); (2) the pterylosis; (3) the number of cervical vertebræ; (4) the mode of arrangement of the deep plantar tendons; (5) the manner of bifurcation of the nasal bones; (6) the presence or absence of cæca; (7) the condition of the oil-gland (naked or tufted); (8) the condition of the palatal bones, especially as regards the presence or absence of basi-ptyergoid processes; (9) the arrangement of the femoral muscles as worked out by Garrod; (10) the position of the digits; (11) the form of the dorsal vertebræ; (12) the presence or absence of supraorbital fossæ.

Perhaps the most startling innovation introduced by Mr. Seebohm is the proposal to join the Mimogypes, or American Vultures\*, into one "Subclass" with his "Picariæ" under the name "Coraciiformes," which has already been put forward in this Journal (*cf.* Ibis, 1890, p. 200). Mr. Seebohm is of opinion that the remarkable deviation from the normal structure shown by these two groups in the arrangement of their deep plantar tendons could hardly have been acquired independently. It is certain that the time has now come when the Mimogypes, shown to differ from the true Accipitres in so many trenchant characters, must claim to stand as an Order apart, and that one of the forms of Mr. Seebohm's

\* In the present work this group is denominated Cathartes (*scr.* *Cathartæ*). In the tables of his new system placed before the Zoological Society at the Meeting on March 4th last it was designated by the appropriate term "Mimogypes." See also above, p. 203.

Picariæ\* (i. e. *Bucorvus*) presents no small amount of resemblance to it. But we are not yet quite prepared to unite the Mimogypes and Syndactylæ in the same "Suborder."

Whatever may be our appreciation of Mr. Seebohm's new System, we must allow that the author has done an excellent piece of work in thus summarizing the results to be arrived at from the study of the labours of Nitzsch, Sundevall, Huxley, Garrod, and Forbes, and in placing them before us in such an intelligible form.

75. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Water-Birds.*

[Contributions to the Comparative Osteology of Arctic and Subarctic Water-Birds. Part V. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S. Journ. Anat. & Physiol. xxiv. p. 89.]

Dr. Shufeldt continues his studies of the Arctic and Subarctic water-birds (*cf. supra*, p. 260), and in the present contribution to this subject descants on the skeleton of the Puffins (*Fraterculinæ*). In his conclusions he states that there can be no question as to the right of admission of the Puffins into the *Alcidæ*, and that perhaps the creation of the genus *Lunda* will prove to be a warranted step. The memoir, as usual, is well and fully illustrated.

76. *Shufeldt on Progress in Avian Anatomy.*

[Progress in Avian Anatomy for the years 1888-89. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S. Journ. Comp. Med. & Veterin. Arch., January 1890.]

Dr. Shufeldt has every claim to our attention when he speaks of Avian Anatomy, and his address on the subject read at the seventh Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union, held at New York last year, will be read with interest. We are pleased to see Dr. Shufeldt's announcement that Messrs. Macmillan have accepted for publication his complete treatise on the muscles of the Raven. A good modern textbook on birds' muscles is much required, and will be very useful to ornithologists.

\* *Picariæ* cannot properly be used for a group which does not contain the Woodpeckers, so that we prefer the alternative name "*Syndactylæ*" for this group.

77. *Stejneger and Lucas on Pallas's Cormorant.*

[Contributions to the Natural History of the Commander Islands.—X. Contribution to the History of Pallas's Cormorant. By Leonhard Stejneger and Frederick A. Lucas. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xii. p. 83.]

It seems certain that Pallas's Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax perspicillatus*) is now an extinct species, like the Great Auk and the *Fregilupus* of Bourbon. Dr. Stejneger has already stated thus much (Pr. U. S. N. M. 1883, p. 65), and now confirms what he has said. The fortunate Museums that contain specimens of this noble bird are the British Museum, the Leyden Museum, and the Museum of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg. When in Bering Island in 1882, Mr. Stejneger dug out of the cliffs at the N.W. end of the island some bones of this extinct Cormorant, which are now described by Mr. Lucas.

78. *Tschusi zu Schmidhofen's Ornithologisches Jahrbuch.*

[Ornithologisches Jahrbuch.—Organ für das palæarktische Faunengebiet. Herausgegeben von Victor Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhofen. Band i. Heft 1. 8vo. Hallein: 1890.]

The well-known authority on European birds, Victor, Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhofen, has started a new Journal of Ornithology, of which the first number is now before us. It is to relate specially to European birds, but also, it appears, to embrace those of the whole Palæarctic Region. The present number contains papers on some scarce birds of Istria, by Dr. S. v. Washington, on those of Prussian Silesia, by C. Hoericke, on those of Moravia, by V. Čápek, an account of the breeding of *Muscicapa parva* in New Pomerania, by Major A. v. Homeyer, and other smaller articles. We wish the new enterprise success, but rather doubt whether there is room for it.

79. *Woodford on the Head-hunters of the Solomon Islands.*

[A Naturalist among the Head-hunters: being an Account of Three Visits to the Solomon Islands in the years 1886, 1887, and 1888. By Charles Morris Woodford. London: 1890.]

The well-known explorer of the Solomon Islands has put



his adventures and experiences "among the head-hunters" into a nice little volume, which we can cordially recommend to those who are interested in the study of Nature. Mr. Woodford is an ardent collector of birds, and frequent allusion to them will be found throughout his pages. His collections have been worked out by Mr. Sharpe and Mr. Grant (see P. Z. S. 1887, p. 328, and 1888, pp. 182, 185).

Perhaps the best bird that he discovered was *Macrocorax woodfordi* (P. Z. S. 1887, p. 332, pl. xxvii.). But we must not suppose that the Avifauna of this most interesting group of islands is by any means yet thoroughly known. Mr. Woodford is certain "that when Bougainville, Choiseul, Ysabel, and Malaita have been properly worked, many hitherto unknown species will be added to our lists. The mountains of Bougainville, over 10,000 feet high, never yet ascended by white man or native, present a field from which we may expect all sorts of prizes, not only in birds, but in other orders."

In one of his chapters Mr. Woodford gives us a good general account of the birds of the Solomon Islands as at present known to us, from which we extract the following passage:—

"As might be expected the Avifauna of the Solomons contains many species identical with or closely allied to those occurring on New Guinea and the neighbouring islands. Some families, however, are altogether wanting, or are represented by species that from long isolation have become distinct.

"The Paradise-Birds, those gorgeous inhabitants of New Guinea and the islands immediately adjacent, have no representative in the Solomons, nor do they even reach New Britain and Duke of York. Casuaries, although found in New Britain and Duke of York Island, do not extend to the Solomons, and I consider their absence another proof that land-connection has never existed between the Solomons and New Britain."